



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: September 1, 2020
FROM: Denise Juneau, Superintendent
LEAD STAFF: Ronald Boy, Senior General Counsel, rdboy@seattleschools.org
Clover Codd, Chief Human Resources Officer, clcodd@seattleschools.org

For Introduction: September 23, 2020
For Action: October 7, 2020

1. TITLE

Resolution No. 2020/21-7, Requesting a Waiver from the 180-Day School Year Requirement for Remote Learning Professional Development

2. PURPOSE

This resolution requests a waiver from the Washington State Board of Education of two days from the 180-day school year requirement to allow instructional staff to receive remote learning professional development. The Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction developed a special waiver application for this school year and the application requires Board action in the form of a resolution.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board approve Resolution No. 2020/21-7, as attached to this Board Action Report.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. Background

At the beginning of summer, there was hope that the public health situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic would allow for students to return to in-person learning for the 2020–21 school year. However, Seattle Public Schools, as well as school districts across Washington, are finding themselves needing to, again, provide remote learning to most or all of their students. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction recognized that many school districts were planning for an in-person model but had to pivot to a remote learning model for the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. As a result, OSPI developed this 180-day school waiver application to provide school districts an opportunity to deliver professional development to assist instructional staff in meeting the needs of their students remotely.

On August 26, 2020, the district submitted a waiver application, proposed 2020-21 school calendar, and joint statement signed by Superintendent Juneau and President DeWolf indicating the district's interest in pursuing a waiver of two school days for remote learning professional development and requesting provisional approval with the understanding that final approval from OSPI would be provided after receipt of an approved Board resolution. The two waived days, which would have been the first two

days of school, will permit instructional staff to receive a full six days of remote learning professional development. The agreement to begin the school year two days later than anticipated and provide comprehensive remote learning professional development was a negotiated agreement with the Seattle Education Association.

An approved Board resolution is required to be provided as part of the application for this special waiver. To be considered for approval, the approved resolution must be provided to OSPI by October 30, 2020.

b. Alternatives

Not request the waiver and either: (1) make up the days elsewhere in the school calendar; or (2) not receive two days of state funding for the 2020-21 school year. This is not recommended as the loss of funding would be detrimental to the district, and the school calendar and remote learning professional development was a negotiated agreement with our teachers' union, Seattle Education Association.

c. Research

N/A

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Upon approval by OSPI, state funding is provided for the two waiver days. In a typical year, the district would realize a savings in transportation for days that are waived, but as school is being conducted remotely, the savings in transportation will not be as apparent in other years as these two days in comparison to others will have similar transportation costs associated.

The revenue source for this motion is N/A.

Expenditure: ☐ One-time ☐ Annual ☐ Multi-Year ☒ N/A

Revenue: ☐ One-time ☒ Annual ☐ Multi-Year ☐ N/A

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With guidance from the District's Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

☐ Not applicable

☒ Tier 1: Inform

☐ Tier 2: Consult/Involve

☐ Tier 3: Collaborate

The matter of the academic year calendar is a primary subject of negotiations with the Seattle Education Association every year and this year was no different. In addition, another primary subject of negotiations for this year was preparing instructional staff to successfully work in a

remote learning environment which led to the agreement to offer six full days of remote learning professional development. As a result of this decision-making structure, there is limited direct community engagement on the subject.

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

The district is focused on limiting negative impacts of remote learning on our students who are furthest from educational justice. As the district worked with educators to develop a comprehensive list of topics for the remote learning professional development, the focus was on ensuring that students receive a culturally responsive remote education. Topics were included such as racial equity and ethnic studies, along with social and emotional wellbeing. Each of these prepares educators to better engage students of color furthest from educational justice.

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

Having educators prepared to provide remote learning to students provides a significant benefit to students. Prior to this last year, most of the district's educators did not have experience teaching a remote environment and it is a skill that can be increased with appropriate training.

9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

- ☐ Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- ☐ Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- ☐ Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- ☐ Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- ☐ Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- ☐ Board Policy No. ____, [TITLE], provides the Board shall approve this item
- ☒ Other: Requirement of OSPI for the Board to approve a resolution on this matter

10. POLICY IMPLICATION

In alignment with Policy No. 5520, Staff Development, this resolution supports the continual professional growth of all staff in order to better serve the needs of our students and district.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the Curriculum & Instruction Policy Committee meeting on September 15, 2020. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved the item forward for approval by the full Board.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this resolution, a copy will be provided to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction for approval of the district's waiver application.

13. ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution No. 2020/21-7 (for approval)

**Seattle School District #1
Board Resolution**

Resolution No. 2020/21-7



A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington to support the request to waive two school days to provide remote learning professional development to instructional staff.

WHEREAS, Chapter 28A.320 RCW authorizes local school boards to govern their respective districts and RCW 28A.330.100 authorizes local school boards with additional powers to prescribe a course of study, to establish and maintain grade year levels and departments, and to determine the length of time over and above that required by law;

WHEREAS, RCW 28A.150.200 sets forth a program of basic education and RCW 28A.150.220 sets forth the minimum instructional requirements of basic education, including that districts must offer at least one hundred eighty school days and a minimum number of instructional hours for kindergarten, grades one through eight, and nine through twelve;

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency in all counties of our state under Chapters 38.08, 38.52, and 43.06 RCW, and directed implementation of the plans and procedures of the state's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and on March 13, 2020, Governor Inslee ordered closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Washington state and issued subsequent orders keeping schools closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year;

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2020, Governor Inslee announced new recommendations from the Washington State Department of Health for resuming in-person instruction in public and private K-12 education for the upcoming 2020–2021 school year. The recommendations allow local health departments and school to districts decide if and how they will allow students back in the classroom, but indicates when COVID-19 infection rates are high, the state strongly recommends school districts move to mostly online or remote learning;

WHEREAS, RCW 28A.150.230 authorizes the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to make rules establishing the terms and conditions for allowing a school district to receive state basic education money, when, due to an emergency school closure, a district is unable to fulfill the statutory requirements of providing one hundred eighty days of operation;

WHEREAS, the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction, recognizing that many school districts were planning for an in-person model, but now must pivot to a remote learning model for the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, established terms and conditions including the submission of an approved board resolution for school districts to request a waiver of school days to provide an opportunity to deliver professional development to assist instructional staff in meeting the needs of their students remotely;

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools, in negotiations with the Seattle Education Association, agreed that district instructional staff should receive six full days of remote learning professional development prior to the start of the school year and agreed that two of the six days would be days originally scheduled to be school days;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Seattle School Board has reviewed and hereby supports the district's submission of the special 180-day school year waiver to provide remote learning professional development to the Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction requesting a waiver of two school days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of this action and of the authority granted herein. The Board warrants that it has, and at the time of this action had, full power and lawful authority to adopt this instrument.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2020

Zachary DeWolf, President

Chandra N. Hampson, Vice President

Leslie Harris, Member-at-Large

Brandon K. Hersey

Eden Mack

Liza Rankin

Lisa Rivera-Smith

ATTEST: _____
Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Directors
Seattle School District No. 1
King County, WA